The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WE PLEDGE—
1 BILLION DOLLARS
IN
WAR SAVINGS BONDS
FOR VICTORY

WHOLE NO. 1653 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1942 | GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer | VOL. 32, NO. 50

FACING *the* FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

The big fact we all have to face as the year closes is that every one of us must do more to help win this war.

Our sacrifices thus far have been trivial compared with what people close to the actual battlefronts of the war have undergone and compared to what our own American boys in uniform will be called upon to face during the coming year.

So let's stop squawking about gasoline, sugar, coffee, meat and other shortages! Let's stop beefing about higher taxes! Let's wake up to the fact that we are in an all-out war for survival and take what comes in the spirit that nothing really matters now but victory!

Otherwise, we will be in the position of pleading guilty to the enemy's charges that we are too soft and too lazy to fight for our own survival.

Otherwise, we will be confirming the hateful attitude of some of our more callous military strategists who believe that America needs a few devastating enemy air raids to galvanize her people into action.

New Year Suggestions

"What more can we do?" you may ask. Well, here are a few suggestions:

Every worker can resolve for the New Year to serve his country as a soldier should—a soldier of production. He should resolve to put that extra bit of muscle into the job which makes all the difference between perfunctory service and patriotic service. A speed-up? Sure! A voluntary speed-up to speed the day of victory and speed the end of the war and the slaughter of men, women and children. Is that too much to expect American workers to be willing to volunteer?

We know that most American workers already are breaking their backs to break production schedules and all of us are proud of them and their achievements. We know that they have maintained splendid self-discipline and have stayed on the job faithfully despite conditions which in normal times they would not tolerate. More power to them! May they keep up the good work in 1943 and even outdo themselves.

Those who are called upon to serve on the production line are making good money these days. Of course, prices have boomed sky-high. Of course, many former family breadwinners have been called into the armed forces and those at home must bear heavier burdens. Of course, taxes are going to be much higher next year. Nevertheless, every worker must resolve to invest his savings and spare dollars for victory to a greater extent than before, even if that means denying himself and members of his family comforts to which they are accustomed.

Members of the AFL exceeded their one billion dollar quota for the purchase of war bonds in 1942. We'd like to see them double the ante in 1943, and do it by systematic purchases through the payroll allotment plan.

Labor Leadership

These are things which American workers can do through their labor and through their economic strength in the community.

But we would like to see labor play an even more aggressive role for victory in 1943. We would like to see labor take leadership in the community to help organize all of our people behind programs necessary for victory. We would like to see labor take leadership in lifting the morale of the American people to the highest pitch. We would like to see labor set a shining example for the rest of the country.

This can be done best by giving, not demanding—by giving cheerfully and by accepting with a smile the sacrifices all of us will be asked to share.

Take rationing, for instance. As the war progresses, more and more goods and services will be rationed. No one can help that. The Government isn't happy about it. It is forced to such extremes by the exigencies of the war effort.

Well, rationing is the most democratic method that exists for distributing the available supply of scarce commodities equitably among the population. If it is well administered, the rich will share equally with the poor. Workers should not object to rationing. They should welcome it. Without rationing, only those with high incomes could obtain scarce articles. With rationing, those in the higher brackets and those in the low-income groups should share alike. That's democracy and that's what organized labor is for.

In fact, there is only one scarcity that workers need fear in the coming year—a shortage of democracy. Organized labor is on guard to prevent such a shortage. We will fight on the home front as well as on the battlefronts to safeguard it.

Labor's Aid In Financing The War Lauded By Secretary Morgenthau

Winston-Salem, N. C.—The workers of America are helping "to finance this people's war and the people's peace to come" by their wholehearted participation in the voluntary War Savings Program and the Victory Loan Drive, Henry Morgenthau, Jr., Secretary of the Treasury, declared here.

The achievements of labor and management, working together as a team in the Payroll Savings 10 Per Cent Drive, has established a "new relationship which is setting the pattern for the post-war years," the secretary said. He spoke at a celebration where Treasury "T" flags were presented to the leaders of labor unions and of employers in North Carolina who had topped that 10 per cent in war bond purchases through regular deductions every payday.

Warning his audience that "we as a nation are just beginning to fight," Mr. Morgenthau sketched briefly the major accomplishments of the Payroll Savings Program throughout the country.

"In the nation as a whole there were only 700,000 workers on the Payroll Savings Plan a year ago, and they were investing only four per cent of their earnings every pay day," he said. "Today more than 24,000,000 workers are setting aside an average of 8½ per cent of their pay, so our soldiers and sailors and flyers can have the weapons they need. This is an achievement 'over here' that will give encouragement to our allies and to our fighting men at battle stations all over the world."

Printing Pressmen's Union Adopts Five-Year Arbitration Agreement

Pressmen's Home, Tenn.—George L. Berry, president of the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union of North America, announced that the membership by referendum vote held in November had again approved renewal of the International Arbitration Agreement between the American Newspaper Publishers Association and the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union of North America by an overwhelming majority.

President Berry, in commenting upon the matter, stated:

"The International Arbitration Agreement negotiated between representatives of the American Newspaper Publishers Association and the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union of North America has been approved by referendum vote of the membership throughout the United States and Canada for an additional five-year period.

"This contract has been operative, except for a short time many years ago, for 36 years. The renewed contract will extend it to 41 years. During the period of its operation one violation of its terms has occurred. This, of course, establishes an unprecedented record of continuous peaceful relationship between investor, management, and labor as it affects the printing pressrooms of the newspaper plants on the continent of North America.

"It is especially significant in this time of world turmoil that the great membership of the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union of North America by a referendum vote have not only exercised their prerogatives as free men in considering this important matter but have held firm to the proposition that peaceful adjustments are always the best adjustments since they have come to fully understand that their interests, the investors' interests, and the managerial interests of the newspapers are inseparable. It is good that we can maintain the great principle of peace and the instrumentality of justice and that these practical idealisms can find support in the midst of world confusion, belligerency, and war."

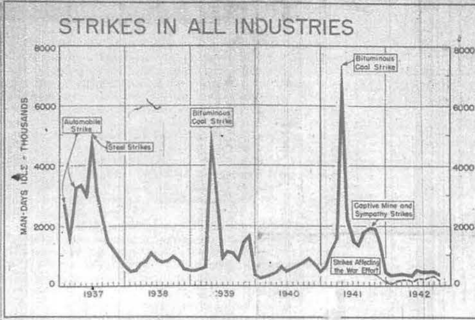
Mr. Berry also revealed that 3,451 members of the union have joined the armed forces of the United States. About 2,500 others are engaged in war industries. Those in the armed forces have been absolved from paying dues.

In addition, Mr. Berry announced members of the union have purchased to date $2,382,190 in war bonds.

TEAMSTERS SEND SMOKES TO OVERSEAS FIGHTERS

Los Angeles, Cal.—A million union-made cigarettes are being sent monthly by Joint Council 42, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, to men in the armed services overseas regardless of race, creed, color, previous union affiliation or branch of service.

Each package contains a message from the joint council. There is also room for a message which the serviceman might like to send back to the council. If he does, the council immediately notifies his parents or nearest relative that a message has been received and he is apparently alive and well.



WHEN THE ZERO HOUR CAME, labor reduced strikes almost to the vanishing point as seen by this chart prepared by the Office of War Information. Losses of working time due to strikes are now at the lowest level in five years. Since 1937, the average number of man-days of production lost by strikes dropped from 2,369,000 to 397,000, while employment increased tremendously. Examination of this chart also shows that not one of the strike peaks occurring since 1937 was due to action by an American Federation of Labor union. This is clear-cut confirmation of AFL claims of responsible unionism.

AFL BUYS $200,000 NEW VICTORY BONDS

Washington, D. C.—Secretary-Treasurer George Meany of the American Federation of Labor handed to William A. Julian, Treasurer of the United States, a check for $200,000 representing the amount of purchase by the AFL of the new Victory Bonds issued by the Treasury Department.

At the same time, AFL President William Green made public a letter sent to officers of all affiliated unions urging all AFL members to purchase War Bonds "to the extent of their ability" during the coming year.

Mr. Green emphasized that the recent convention of the AFL adopted a declaration calling upon "all union members to invest at least 10 per cent of wages earned in War Bonds and that the 10 per cent payroll deduction plan be put into effect" as widely as possible.

PATTERN MAKERS NEARLY 100 PER CENT ORGANIZED

Chicago. — The Pattern Makers League now has 12,000 of the 13,500 pattern makers in the United States on its membership rolls, President George Q. Lynch reported in a speech at a banquet of the Chicago local.

Wages obtained by the union in the last year, Lynch revealed, are the highest in the history of the organization, which is five times as big as it was in 1934. Hourly rates of $1.70 have been established in job shops and $1.50 in manufacturing plants.

The union has won every NLRB election in which it has participated, Lynch told his listeners. He also stressed the democracy within his organization.

AUTO WORKERS PRESENT TRUCK TO THE MARINES

Washington, D. C.—Nearly a year ago, when the Japanese attacked and finally took Wake Island, they captured an 8-ton truck made by the Four Wheel Drive Auto Company of Clintonville, Wisconsin. On December 7th, the anniversary of the Japanese attack upon Pearl Harbor, employes of the same company gave the Marines a truck of the same type.

Working on their own time, with material furnished by the management at no cost to the Government, the workmen contributed the truck as a token of their appreciation for the Marines' heroic stand at Wake Island. During the day a shopman presented the truck to Colonel F. S. Robillard, U.S.M.C. A bill of lading was placed on it, and it was sent westward for delivery to the Marines in the Solomons.

COURT UPSETS UNIONISTS OUSTER FROM SCHOOL UNIT

Madison, Wis.—Organized labor won a victory when the Wisconsin supreme court overruled Circuit Judge A. C. Hoppman's ouster of Edward Weston and Edward N. Rice from the Kenosha Board of Education because they are union members.

The supreme court ruled that elective officials may be removed only by recall. Although the high court based its decision only on this point of law, it also said:

"It is perfectly clear that if the respondents failed at all times to exercise their own individual judgment and discretion in performance of their duties, the remedy was political and not judicial."

REACTIONARY NAM BLASTED BY MORSE

WLB Member Assails Anti-Labor Stand of Employer Group

New York City.—Wayne L. Morse, public member of the War Labor Board, delivered a blunt indictment of "would-be feudal barons" in U. S. industry who "in the name of patriotic sanctions carry on a fight against unionism."

Addressing a regional war conference of the American Bar Association, Morse charged that "a small minority of employers" are engaged in a drive to wreck the WLB because "they know full well that if they could get rid of the WLB they would be in a good position to destroy the unions in their plants."

His speech was clearly a reply to attacks on the WLB at the National Association of Manufacturers' congress in New York. Assailing "misrepresentation" and distortion of the board's actions, Morse said:

"Some of these critics, especially in the ranks of industry, gather together occasionally and pass scathing resolutions, charging the board with rendering extra-legal decisions, of being partial and biased in its own opinions, of usurping the powers of Congress and of imposing the closed shop upon American industry.

"Such beating of breasts and pounding of the drums of economic warfare is a rather cheap performance in time of war, in view of the fact that the open-book record of the board simply does not support the charges set forth in such resolutions."

Morse said "such public antics" indicated that the WLB's critics "are doped by the philosophy of economic feudalism" and "have misinterpreted the trend of events by jumping to the conclusion that the time is ripe to take advantage of war conditions and in the name of patriotic sanctions, carry on a fight against unionism."

Blasting recurrent "strike wave" talk, Morse cited board statistics to show labor's overwhelming compliance with the no-strike pledge. He said:

"There has not been one single month, beginning with January of this year, in which the man days lost from war production by strikes were greater than 1-10 of one per cent. In October, the man days lost by strikes dropped to 5-100 of one per cent of the total man days worked—the lowest percentage since January of this year. The number of man days lost fell from 318,892 in September to 167,865 in October. During the same time, the number of man days worked rose from approximately 332,000,000 to 350,000,000 in October. The number of men involved fell from 80,799 to 42,320, while the number of strikes in progress during the month fell from 187 to 116.

"What is more, there has not been a single strike call since the no-strike, no-lockout agreement was entered into that has been issued by anyone of the international unions. Every strike has been a 'wildcat' or outlaw strike, and in no instance have the international officers of the unions concerned failed to cooperate with the War Labor Board in taking such immediate steps as were necessary to end the strike."

AFL UNIONS IN CHICAGO BREAK OUTPUT RECORDS

Washington, D. C.—As an example of how union workers are breaking records, the War Production Board cited the showing of AFL Building Trades members in Chicago, who completed every war project in the area "three to six months ahead of schedule."

NELSON ASKS WAR LABOR TO WORK ON NEW YEAR'S

Washington, D. C.—Lending emphasis to the urgency for maximum employment of the nation's labor force, Donald M. Nelson, chairman of the War Production Board, requested war production workers to observe normal working schedules on New Year's day.

"Ever since Pearl Harbor," Mr. Nelson said, "we have asked workers and management in war plants to forego their customary holidays in order to maintain unbroken production schedules. The response to these requests has been remarkably good, and the effect on production has been excellent. The one exception that has been made to this rule during the past year has been in connection with the observance of Christmas.

"New Year's day should not cause a break in the steady flow of production. We can best start the new year by staying on the job and getting out a regular work—a day's production of war goods."

SOUTHERN LABOR PLANS BIG RALLY IN ATLANTA

A call has been issued by the American Federation of Labor for a large labor rally to be held in the South.

It will be known as the "Southern Labor Conference" and will be held January 16 to 18, at the City Auditorium in Atlanta, with an expected attendance of 5,000 union members and officers from all parts of Dixie. George L. Googe, chief AFL Southern representative, is directing arrangements.

Railroad labor will play an important part in the parley. A session devoted to problems of rail workers will be presided over by President George M. Harrison of the Railway Clerks. Among major subjects to be considered by the delegates will be war production, threatened anti-labor legislation and attempts being made by foes of unions to interfere with organizing campaigns in the South.

45,000 LONGSHOREMEN GRANTED HIGHER WAGES

Washington, D. C.—The National War Labor Board approved a union-management agreement granting a 5-cents-an-hour wage increase to 45,000 longshoremen in North Atlantic ports. An additional 5-cents-hourly increase was approved for longshoremen handling explosives and damaged cargoes.

The increases, retroactive to Oct. 1, were incorporated in a contract between the New York Shipping Association of New York and the International Longshoremen's Association, American Federation of Labor affiliate, which the board said served as a master wage agreement for all Atlantic ports from Maine to Virginia.

WLB INCREASES PAY RATES OF 22,000 HOTEL WORKERS

Washington, D. C.—Wage increases for more than 22,000 employes of 105 hotels in New York City were approved by the War Labor Board. All waiters, waitresses, bellboys and baggage porters are to receive an increase of $1.50 a week. All other employes, including helpers, will receive $2 additional each week. The average wage in the hotels involved has been $20.40 a week.

The board said the increases were approved to eliminate area inequalities after the parties produced data showing that wage rates in the hotels were below the rates paid for comparable work in the area. The increases were contained in a voluntary agreement between the Hotel Association of New York City and the New York Hotel Trades Council (American Federation of Labor).

McNutt Opens Government Drive To Preserve 40-Hour Week Laws

Blasts Newspaper Campaigns To Cut Overtime Standards Which Spur War Production Program

Washington, D. C.—The Administration served notice that it will vigorously oppose any and all attempts in the next Congress to force abandonment of the 40-hour week standard for overtime.

War Manpower Commissioner Paul V. McNutt fired the opening gun when he blasted the renewed newspaper and Congressional campaign for dismemberment of the Fair Labor Standards Act. He declared:

"The 40-hour week law has nothing to do with curtailing hours of work. It is a perfectly amazing thing to see in some reputable journals material leading the reader to think that the 40-hour week is a limitation on work."

The nation's manpower director gave that answer to reporters at his weekly press conference who asked him whether he intended to press for scrapping of the Wage-Hour Law to speed the manpower mobilization.

McNutt pointed out that the law affected only the issue of whether workers should be paid time-and-a-half for working in excess of 40 hours. He indicated that the "cost" factor was not proving a bar to production and that, if it does, "that is a problem of economic stabilization."

The views expressed by McNutt are known to be shared by the heads of all Federal war agencies and by President Roosevelt himself. Their position is:

1—Suspension of the 40-hour overtime standard would not add a single hour to war production.

2—It would upset the entire wage stabilization program and force upward revision of pay scales to make up for the loss of overtime pay.

3—It would detrimentally affect war production during the period of readjustment.

McNutt also revealed that he regards reorganization of the United States Employment Service as the "first essential" to an effective manpower program. This service has been almost starved to death by Congress because of inadequate appropriations and limitation on the amount of salaries of employes.

As a result of this churlish treatment by the Government there have been 8,828 withdrawals from jobs in the Employment Service throughout the nation this year, McNutt said. He said that the personnel of the service had worked more than five million hours of overtime without pay because of Congressional restrictions.

Roosevelt Backs Job Seniority Of Workers In War Industries

Washington, D. C.—President Roosevelt gave his full support to the stand taken by organized labor that seniority rights of workers who transfer from civilian to war industries should be preserved.

He took the unusual step of issuing a formal, written statement calling upon employers who are not engaged in essential industries to encourage their skilled workers to transfer to war industries by assuring them they will be restored to their jobs with seniority unimpaired, after the war.

Such a guarantee has been written into law in the case of workers drafted for military service, and the same protection, the President insisted, should be accorded to workers who go from peacetime to war jobs. Many employes, he explained, hesitate to make the change for fear of losing seniority they have built up.

"Seniority privileges have become an institution in American industry," the President declared. "I feel that employers in civilian industries will be willing to give the same assurances to their employes who leave for war work as they give to employes who are leaving to join the armed services. By so doing, they can perform a great service to the government at this time."

Union chiefs on the labor-management policy committee of the War Manpower Commission have taken the position that whenever any compulsory orders are issued for transfer of workers to war jobs, guarantees of seniority protection should accompany them. In view of the President's declaration, it is anticipated the Manpower Commission will include such safeguards in its future directives.

Radio Chains Spent Huge Sums To Fight Musicians, AFM Charges

New York City. — The American Federation of Musicians has uncovered unassailable evidence showing that the radio broadcasting industry has wasted more than a quarter of a million dollars in a vain attempt to smear the union's president, James C. Petrillo, and to outlaw the union's restrictions on recording that force musicians out of jobs.

Confirmation of the union's charges was given by a leading radio operator, Samuel R. Rosenbaum, president of WFIL, Philadelphia, in an address to a meeting of the National Association of Broadcasters in that city on October 19th. Mr. Rosenbaum said:

"The handling of the Petrillo situation by the National Association of Broadcasters is a masterpiece of ineptitude.

"For the past year or two the pressure of other work has made it impossible for me to take a direct part in the work of the trade organizations in the broadcasting industry. I would prefer to avoid entering actively into the so-called Petrillo controversy, but as a member of this district speaking in our local meeting, I cannot keep silent when I see how it is being mishandled.

"Our association should never have taken the leadership in a fight against the musicians. Their fight is not against us primarily, but principally against the juke-box barons and the record manufacturers. Yet we have engaged counsel to master-mind the campaign and we have hired a high-pressure publicity firm which is inspiring the national flood of news stories, editorials and cartoons against Petrillo.

"We have allowed ourselves to be used by the record-manufacturers to pull hot chestnuts out of the fire for them. While I admire the ingenuity of this strategy, it is our paws which are being scorched. If we keep it up we will be badly burned. In the meantime we are paying bills for services which should be borne by the manufacturers, and we will incur the odium of a method of warfare contrary to all modern ideas of dealing with labor.

"Having entered into it, we are allowing our name to be seriously damaged by letting it be used in a form of labor-baiting and labor-leader smearing which is a relic of a past generation. It may end in losing us all the gains we have achieved as an industry in 20 years of fair dealing with labor. Billingsgate, bilge and bluff are no longer successful weapons in a labor negotiation.

"With the entire press of the United States at our disposal, and with powerful branches of Government lending themselves amiably to the effort, all we have been able to think of is to attack the integrity and personal characteristics of one labor leader who happens to be a vigorous and outspoken agent of his craft.

"It will do us no good to destroy Petrillo as an individual. There will only rise up others to succeed him who may be more diplomatic or more grammatical, but who will be even more determined and unyielding in carrying out the mandates of their people and they will be embittered to boot.

"There are deep-lying economic difficulties to be met in this controversy. What have we contributed toward their solution by this unseemly propaganda? Not one constructive thought has been uttered. All our energy has been concentrated to organize a legal and newspaper hue-and-cry. The only remedy we have proposed is the old reactionary slogan, 'Keep everything As Is.'

"It is my belief that the court action which was started with insufficient forethought and inadequate preparation may put a clamp on us which will discredit everybody who had any part in this cynical proceeding. It is difficult for me to believe that any of the lawyers concerned were really convinced the action would succeed. I can only presume the Attorney General's approval was obtained because he is too busy with major war problems. It is at least to the credit of the department that the action was limited to a civil proceeding instead of firing off a terrifying blank cartridge with a criminal indictment.

"As for legislative action, it does not take much reflection to realize that introduction of repressive labor legislation in Congress will bring in the whole of organized labor to fight for its own. Instead of a local siege we will find we have stirred up a major war on a wide home front at a time when we have plenty to do in the war with Japs and Germans.

"Let us stop trying to scare people by making false faces. Labor won't scare. Petrillo won't scare. Maybe after Hallowe'en the manufacturers will begin to think and talk sense, and our National Association of Broadcasters will stop representing manufacturers and confine itself to representing broadcasters.

"This is a case that can and should be settled. Petrillo's objectives also require legislation and it is probably just as true that any legislation he wants would stir up the whole underlying problem of patents, copyrights and restraint of trade, so it is out of the question during the war. Somebody ought to get these people together."